

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 42**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to California Nurses Day and California Nurses Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 16, 2003.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 26, Chesbro. California Nurses Day and California Nurses Week.

This measure would proclaim May 6, 2003, as California Nurses Day, and would also proclaim the 2nd week of May, commencing in the year 2003, and every year thereafter, as California Nurses Week.

WHEREAS, The 293,537 registered nurses and 94,784 licensed vocational nurses in California compose the state's largest licensed health care profession; and

WHEREAS, Professional nurses provide compassionate, culturally appropriate, and comprehensive health care to a growing, diverse population; and

WHEREAS, The depth and breadth of the nursing profession meets a broad spectrum of the health care needs of Californians in a variety of settings; and

WHEREAS, A renewed emphasis on preventive health care and the early detection of disease requires improved use of the state's nursing resources; and

WHEREAS, Professional nursing is an indispensable component of the safety and quality of patient care in every health care setting for every age group; and

WHEREAS, The need for registered nursing services will be greater than ever due to the use of increasingly complex, life-sustaining technologies, the expanded leadership and practice roles of registered nurses in various places of service, and the critical role of registered nurses in responding to mass casualty management; and

WHEREAS, The provision of cost-effective health care services by registered and licensed vocational nurses will be an important component of the California health care delivery system in years to come; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing that licensed nurses are the cornerstone of the health care workforce, California is the first state in the nation to propose nurse-to-patient ratios for acute care hospitals; and



WHEREAS, A far greater number of licensed nurses are needed to meet the present and future demand, and Governor Gray Davis has launched a \$60 million Nurse Workforce Initiative to address the growing nursing shortage in California; and

WHEREAS, Nurses working in all sectors of health care celebrate May 6 to May 12 as National Nurses Week, a time to recognize that nurses provide high-quality patient care services throughout California; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That registered and licensed vocational nurses are hereby recognized and honored for accomplishments and efforts to improve the health care system in California; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the California Legislature hereby proclaims May 6, 2003, as California Nurses Day; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the California Legislature designates the second week of May, commencing in the year 2003, and every year thereafter, as California Nurses Week; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

